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\*For new bookings made by 30 October 2024 on select 2024-2025 sailings, subject to availability and change. US\$500 per stateroom Onboard Credit is applicable on selected dates and sailings, when booking any stateroom. Additionally, Veranda or Suite bookings can also benefit from a choice between complimentary Wi-Fi or a Premium Beverage package. Visit Lincolnshire Co-op for full Terms & Conditions.



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news plus a cover wrap from **Azamara Cruises** and a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

### Azamara on sale

**AZAMARA'S** hidden gems sale provides \$500 in onboard credit, plus those who book a veranda or suite will get unlimited wi-fi or a premium beverage package.

Head to the **cover page** for more information.

### It's luxury week

**IT'S** Cruise Lines International Association's luxury week - the final week of this year's Cruise Month.

Head to **p3** and **4** for more info on how to get involved.

## Carnival recommits to year-round in Aus

**CARNIVAL** Corporation kicked off its 2024-25 Australian cruise season on Fri, with the company's local head Peter Little reaffirming its commitment to the country.

The season will see 17 Carnival Corp ships from its nine brands call in Australia, with the company celebrating in Sydney aboard the newly arrived *Queen Elizabeth*, sailing her final Down Under season for Cunard Line (**CW** 06 Nov 2023).

The impending exit of both *Queen Elizabeth* and P&O Cruises' *Pacific Explorer* from Australia (**CW** 04 Jun) will not deter Carnival however, with Little telling **Cruise Weekly** the company will maintain its year-long presence in the country.

"Carnival remains committed to sailing in Australia year-round, and we are the only large-ship cruise operator with ships based in Australia 365 days a year.

Many of Carnival's key executives, as well as other cruise luminaries, boarded *Queen Elizabeth* for the season launch, with the ship one of five to home port from Sydney for the season.

She will be joined by Princess Cruises' *Crown Princess* and *Royal Princess*; Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Splendor*; and P&O's *Pacific Adventure*, sailing her last season for the retiring brand.

The day was also backdropped by the release of the Economic Impact Assessment (**CW** 18 Oct), jointly commissioned by Cruise Lines International Association and the Australian Cruise Association, with Little saying Carnival contributes around \$5 billion to Australia's total \$8.43 billion annual cruise taking.

He said he "couldn't be prouder" to be a part of the world's biggest cruise company. "Carnival Corp is proud to be

Australia's most popular cruise operator," he said.

"Australians love cruising because it offers great value for money and we are seeing a surge in popularity for our getaway short cruises, offering people who've never cruised before a taste of what an affordable fun holiday can be."

Little also spoke on the mooted third Sydney cruise terminal, reported by this masthead earlier this month (**CW** 14 Oct), as well as the White Bay shore power project (**CW** 30 Sep).

"The future of cruising in Sydney is a long-term issue and we are committed to working with the government to build for the future," he said.

"Carnival pioneered shore power in the cruise industry and we look forward to affordable shore power being switched on at White Bay." *MS*



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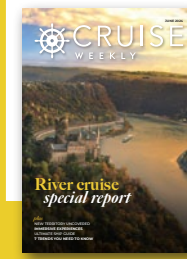
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## States hail contribution of cruise sector

**STATE** tourism leaders have welcomed the release of the Economic Impact Assessment (**CW** 18 Oct), jointly commissioned by Cruise Lines International Association and the Australian Cruise Association.

The report revealed NSW brought in a record-breaking \$4.41 billion during the 2023-24 season, up 60.4% from the previous financial year.

Minister for Transport Jo Haylen declared her state the “cruise capital of Australia”, noting more than half of the country’s cruise spend is retained by NSW.

“The season ahead will see even more international cruise ships visit NSW, and it shows a growing momentum for the cruise industry as passengers get back on board post-pandemic,” Haylen said.

“This year we will see 23 maiden cruise ship arrivals to

NSW ports, bringing hundreds of thousands of passengers eager to explore Sydney and our state.

“There’s been some excellent growth in this industry, and our new panel will help the cruise industry continue to grow sustainably in the years ahead.”

The Sapphire Coast is set to benefit this season in particular, as 25 cruise ship visits bring 43,000 passengers to Eden, injecting a potential \$12 million into the local economy.

Newcastle will also see an increase in international visitors with 12 cruise ship visits, bringing 12,500 passengers.

Meanwhile, South Australia’s comparably smaller yet no less impactful cruise sector brought in \$227 million last season.

Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison acclaimed the rural dispersal cruise creates in South Australia, with more than 27,000

shore excursions undertaken in destinations such as Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula and Adelaide Hills last season.

“The great benefit of cruise is that it brings visitors from across the world directly to our stunning coastal towns, from Penneshaw to Port Lincoln,” she said.

“It also means South Australia is now top-of-mind as a desired destination for the more than 208,000 passengers and crew who visited over the season.”

The news comes as South Australia looks to attract more cruises to its shores (**CW** 06 Sep).

The industry also injected a record \$385 million into Western Australia’s economy, which saw almost 300 cruise calls over the past season.

This coming cruise calendar is expected bring more than 200,000 passengers into Western Australia. *MS*

## CCL back in Noumea

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line (CCL) is expected to resume operations to New Caledonia next month, **CW** understands.

A guest advisory viewed by this masthead informs those booked on the planned 14 Nov New Caledonia cruise aboard *Carnival Splendor* the voyage is expected to go ahead.

“Some public facilities have been damaged, and parts of the city are still being repaired...we strongly recommend you do not plan independent travel for your calls to Noumea, beyond the beaches and bays to the south of the city to Ansee Vata,” Carnival said.

“We encourage you to book one of our shore excursions, which have been developed to provide access to the best sites available at this time,” the guest advisory read.

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**SEABOURN** Cruise Line guests recently made an extraordinary discovery during a submarine dive near Alejandro Selkirk Island.

Passengers aboard *Seabourn Pursuit* discovered long-lost World War I-era ship *Titania*, a German supply vessel, which had vanished for 110 years.

The ship was found resting 95 metres below the surface, with *Pursuit* passengers the first to lay eyes on *Titania* since her scuttling in 1914.

## RCI's newest tune

**ROYAL** Caribbean (RCI) has revealed new Eurovision Song Contest-themed holidays for next year.

The two European cruises will sail aboard *Allure of the Seas* in May and *Independence of the Seas* in Jun, and are available to book now.

The cruises will see passengers enjoy a Eurovision Song Contest Grand Final Viewing Party on *Allure*, and relive iconic moments from past contests on the Eurovision Song Contest throwback cruise on *Independence*.

Passengers can look forward to themed parties, karaoke nights, quizzes, a gala dinner, live performances by surprise acts, and even enter a giveaway to win tickets to the Grand Final in Basel.

## Juneau voters support cruise

**ROYAL** Caribbean Group (RCG) has signed an agreement with asset management company Goldbelt to build a new cruise port in Juneau, as voters in the Alaskan capital reject the proposed Ship-Free Saturdays initiative (**CW** 25 Sep).

The new port, projected for completion in time for the 2027 season, aims to remove one-third of bus traffic from Juneau's roadways, improving downtown congestion, and enhancing the experience for visitors, as well as locals - a particular pain point called out by Ship-Free Saturdays.

The port's preliminary plans situate it on Douglas Island, with two floating berths overlooking the Chilkat Range.

The project plans for cruise passengers to depart directly from Douglas Island onto whale-watching tours or shuttle boats to Mendenhall Glacier.

The port will also include a recreated 1800s Alaska Native Tlingit village, where they will experience Goldbelt shareholders' ancestral history through stories, art, songs, dance, and traditional foods.

Located directly in major shipping routes alongside Steven's Passage, the project would reduce time and fuel requirements for ships sailing to Skagway, or west to the Gulf of Alaska, which Goldbelt said will make it the most ideal stopover for routing to Sitka or Seward.

Goldbelt's port plan also envisions on-site employee housing, as well as serving as an economic driver for the second Juneau-Douglas crossing and

Douglas Bench Road, which have been city priorities for more than a decade.

"We are thankful to Goldbelt Incorporated and to the Juneau community for the partnership to bring solution-oriented initiatives, such as this port, to life," RCG AVP West Coast Destinations Preston Carnahan said.

"We look forward to continuing to support Juneau as the cruise capital of Alaska by offering award-winning guest experiences through responsible destination management," he added.

The proposal comes as Juneau certifies the decisive rejection of Ship-Free Saturdays, which aimed to ban any cruise vessel with more than 250 passengers from docking in the city, on a day which is typically set aside for recreation by locals.

Early results of the 01 Oct election showed the initiative headed for defeat, according to media reports, which is now confirmed, with 61% voting against Ship-Free Saturdays.

The initiative would have also banned ships from docking on Independence Day, with some residents feeling the cruise season "adversely impacts their health and quality of life".

The proposition suggested residents are displaced from the town and nearby recreation sites by the overtourism brought by the cruise industry, accusing the local government of "not doing enough" to manage the sector.

Juneau, which has a population of 32,000, received a record 1.65 million visitors last year, up from 1.31 million in 2019. *MS*



## Luxury week is here

**LUXURY** cruising is one of the growth areas in travel right now, and that means enormous opportunities for travel agents.

Cruise lines are setting new standards in the design and styling of their new ships, while at the same time elevating existing vessels through ongoing enhancements and investment.

The result is a fleet of the most spectacular ships to have ever sailed, allowing guests to visit extraordinary destinations in superb style.

However, luxury cruising is now so much more than the ship itself, and cruise lines now place a huge importance on creating unforgettable experiences for their guests on board and ashore.

For the travel advisor, this creates an opportunity to extend that experience throughout the entire travel process.

Luxury cruising allows for high levels of customisation and personalisation, offering advisors a natural advantage.

CLIA has created a wealth of resources for members to use during Cruise Month, including a range of luxury cruising assets in our Cruise Month Toolkit.

Visit the CLIA Members hub to find out more, follow CLIA Australasia on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, and use hashtag #LoveCruise.







# IT'S LUXURY WEEK!

## MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Register to attend one of our Cruise Month webinars



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Enter our Cruise Month competition by sharing your events on socials with #CruiseMonth2024



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Download the Cruise Month toolkit assets (web banners, editable flyer, social tiles & more)



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Get customers excited with special cruise offers using our Cruise Month editable flyer

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